स्थित कुछ संयंत्र कोयले की अपनी आवश्यकता की पूर्ति हेतु कोयले का आयात कर रहे हैं।

(ड) कोयला कंपनियां गुजरात स्थित इन क्षेत्रों की कोयले की मांग पूर्णत: पूरी करने की स्थिति में है।

Import of custom free Nepalese Vanaspati

439. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed total custom duty exemption on the import of Nepalese Vanaspati;

(b) if so, what is its overall impact on the Indian Vanaspati industry in the country;

(c) whether the Indian Vanaspati manufacturers have protested against the import of custom free Nepalese Vanaspati; and

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to reconsider its decision; if not, why?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Under the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade, Government of India provides access to the Indian market free of customs duties and quantitives restrictions for all articles manufactured in Nepal, including Vanaspati, except for the articles in the Negative List annexed to the Treaty. If this facility leads to a surge in the imports of particular article from Nepal, appropriate action is to be taken after mutual consultation between the two Governments.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Representations are being received from the Indian Vanaspati manufacturers and others protesting against import of Vanaspati from Nepal. They are being considered in the context of the provisions of the Treaty.

Industrial production and exports

440. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed forth growth of industrial production and exports during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) whether Government are satisfied with the achievements made so far;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to boost exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The target rate of growth of industrial production for 1996-97 was 6.8%. Ministry of Industry have informed that no such target was fixed for 1997-98. The target rate of growth of industrial production for 1996-97 has been achieved as actual industrial growth rate during the year 1996-97 was 7.1%. The overall industrial growth rate during the year 1997-98 was 4.2%. A target growth of 20% in US$ terms and 18% in US$ terms was envisaged for exports during 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The export target fixed could not be achieved during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98. As per the provisional data of DGCI&S, the growth rate achieved in dollar terms were 4.01% and 2.64% and in Rupee terms 10.39% and 7.45% during 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively.

(d) Export performance is influenced interalia by international market conditions, infrastructure facilities and policy framework. Export promotion measures are continuously being taken by Government through changes in policies and procedures for providing suitable environment, involvement of States in export promotion and consultation with Trade and Industry. Some of the recent steps taken in this regard include modification in DEPB rates, announcing of DEPB rate for about 300 new export items, preparing a medim term strategy for growth of exports, launching of Focus LAC Scheme and strengthening incentive schemes.

Performance of leather industry

441. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be please to state:

(a) the performance of leather industry during 1997-98 in terms of the targets set;

(b) the details of fresh additional investment made in the leather industry to harness its huge export potential;

(c) whether Government did formulate a comprehensive plan of action to score a lead